



Public health impact of global heating due to climate change: Potential effects on chronic non-communicable diseases

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Year: 2010
Journal: International Journal of Public Health. 55 (2): 97-103

Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: Several categories of ill health important at the global level are likely to be affected by climate change. To date the focus of this association has been on communicable diseases and injuries. This paper briefly analyzes potential impacts of global climate change on chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs). **METHOD:** We reviewed the limited available evidence of the relationships between climate exposure and chronic and NCDs. We further reviewed likely mechanisms and pathways for climatic influences on chronic disease occurrence and impacts on pre-existing chronic diseases. **RESULTS:** There are negative impacts of climatic factors and climate change on some physiological functions and on cardio-vascular and kidney diseases. Chronic disease risks are likely to increase with climate change and related increase in air pollution, malnutrition, and extreme weather events. **CONCLUSIONS:** There are substantial research gaps in this arena. The health sector has a major role in facilitating further research and monitoring the health impacts of global climate change. Such work will also contribute to global efforts for the prevention and control of chronic NCDs in our ageing and urbanizing global population.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00038-009-0090-2>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Researcher

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Temperature

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution

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Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Urban

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Diabetes/Obesity, Infectious Disease, Injury, Malnutrition/Undernutrition, Mental Health/Stress, Urologic Effect

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Stress Disorder

Intervention: 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: 

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time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content